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IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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For immediate release

1. Colesburg plans to discharge wastewater Friday

COLESBURG PLANS TO DISCHARGE WASTEWATER FRIDAY

COLESBURG — The northeast Iowa city of Colesburg is planning to discharge partially treated wastewater from a storage lagoon at 8:30 a.m. Friday and possibly again next week.

Wastewater has been flowing from the north storage lagoon at the city's wastewater treatment plant through an overflow pipe since at least Feb. 14. While the exact duration or volume of the discharge from the overflow pipe is unknown, up to 7,000 gallons may have been discharged per day.

The intent of the discharge Friday is to create enough room in the lagoon to stop the overflow and keep the lagoon within capacity until April, the normal time for a spring discharge. The discharge is expected to continue for approximately seven days.

The wastewater from the north lagoon will be discharged into Pine Creek, which flows into Elk Creek, both located in Clayton County.

In addition, an overflow in the facility's southeast lagoons was discovered Thursday. Water samples have been taken and a discharge will most likely take place when lab results are received next week. Downstream water users have been notified.

The southeast lagoons discharge into Bloody Run Creek, located in Delaware County, which then flows into the Little Turkey River in Clayton County.

"I would caution people to keep their children and pets out of the area for at least 48 hours after the discharge has stopped," said Sue Miller, an environmental specialist at the Manchester DNR field office.

The DNR will consider appropriate legal action, as the city failed to notify the DNR of the initial discharge from the north lagoon, and Friday's discharge will not be within the city's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit effluent limits.

The DNR will also be meeting with the city to discuss options that will allow the city to store all its wastewater for at least 180 days and prevent future noncompliance.

For more information, contact Sue Miller at (563) 927-2640.